

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ROCCI, Daniel

SERIAL NO.: (International Serial No. PCT/FR2004/000849)

FILED: Herewith (International Filing Date: 6 April 2004)

TITLE: SWIMMING AND DIVING FLIPPERS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE

REMARKS ON PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as provided in the attached Marked Up Copy and Substitute Specification.

Please note that the following amendments in the Substitute Specification apply to the attached specification and claims labeled for "U.S. filing". This combined application incorporates the original application and any amendments or annex to the International Application in the proper order, including the correct original and substitute pages, claims and drawing sheets.

In this preliminary amendment, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, certain grammatical and idiomatic inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification, and the application is

corrected for certain typographical errors found in the originally submitted application. No new matter has been added by these amendments. The present application incorporates the original filing including any amendments made in the international filing. There was no amendment in the International Application, and there was no annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report. There was no Demand for IPE filed. The specification is an English translation of an originally French language document.

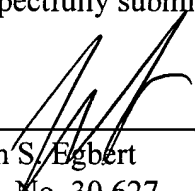
The Claims have been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements and so as to remove multiple dependent claims. The Abstract has been amended so as to conform to U.S. filing requirements.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

10. 4. 05
Date

Customer No. 24106

Respectfully submitted,



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CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (Currently amended) Effort-distributing swimming and diving flipper ~~of the type which~~ includes comprising:

~~=on the one hand,~~ a bootee (1) ~~intended for accommodating the~~ a foot of a user and extending forward ~~in the form of as~~ a blade (2) to ~~constitute form~~ form a mobile propulsion assembly, ~~this~~ said bootee being shaped so as to permit, when positioned on the foot of a user, a movement of the upper part of the foot or instep (P) ~~with respect to the~~ a leg (J), in such a manner that the instep can form, during the finning action, an angle (a) of variable size with the leg, and

~~=on the other hand,~~ a leg-fastening device (5) ~~shaped so it can to~~ be attached around ~~the~~ a lower part of the leg and below a ~~user's~~ user's calf ~~of a user~~ and connected to the mobile propulsion assembly (2-1) through effort-transmitting side arms (4) and with hinges (6), with ~~the~~ lower extremities (4a) of ~~these~~ arms and said mobile propulsion assembly (2-1) being arranged in a complementary fashion in order to ~~constitute form~~ form limit stop systems (7c, 9, 4c) ensuring during the active phase of the finning movement, a limitation of the size of ~~this~~ the angle, ~~characterized by the fact that the~~ wherein lower extremities (4a) of the effort-transmitting arms (4) are attached to the mobile propulsion assembly (1-2, 1-2-7) in places corresponding to the locations of the malleoli when the flipper is positioned on a ~~user's~~ user's foot of the user.

2. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper as per claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the limit stops (9) systems which allow limiting the amplitude of the active finning movements are adjustable so as to allow a limitation of the size of the finning angle (a) to a value

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lower than ~~the~~ a maximum anatomical value the instep ~~(P)~~ is normally able to form with the leg ~~(J)~~ of the user for whom the flipper is intended.

3. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to claim 2, ~~characterized by the fact that the system of adjustable~~ the limit stops consists systems are comprised of removable and interchangeable shims ~~(9)~~ of different sizes, ~~so as to allow selecting the optimal angle of maximum extension of each individual's foot of each user during the active finning movement.~~

4. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3;~~ ~~characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the mobile propulsion assembly ~~(1-2)~~ is equipped with side posts ~~(7)~~ placed on each side of the bootie ~~(1)~~ and ~~that wherein~~ the lower extremities ~~(4a)~~ of the effort-transmitting arms ~~(4)~~ are attached to ~~these~~ said side posts.

5. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein~~ the limit stops system of stops, limiting the amplitude of the swivel motion of the mobile propulsion assembly ~~(1-2-7)~~ includes is comprised of a sleeve ~~(7a)~~ formed by ~~the~~ a back part of the side posts ~~(7)~~; and ~~in which the wherein a~~ lower part ~~(4a)~~ of the corresponding effort-transmitting arm ~~(4)~~ is hinged, ~~this a~~ sleeve featuring a transversal stop wall ~~(7c)~~ against which the extremity ~~(4a)~~ of said lower part ~~comes coming~~ to bear at ~~the an~~ end of the swivel travel of said propulsion assembly.

6. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to claim 5, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein~~ the limit stops system of stops, limiting the amplitude of the swivel motion of the mobile propulsion assembly ~~(1-2-7)~~ includes is comprised of a removable shim ~~(9)~~ which is shaped ~~so it can~~ to be placed and fastened interchangeably between the transversal stop wall ~~(7c)~~ and the extremity ~~(4c)~~ of the lower part ~~(4a)~~ of the effort-transmitting arm ~~(4)~~.

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7. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to claim 6, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the interchangeable shims (9) ~~are made~~ comprised of elastomer.

8. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7, characterized by the fact that the~~ Claim 1, wherein said leg-fastening device (5) ~~consists is comprised~~ of elements ~~capable of surrounding~~ the lower part of a user's leg, below the calf, ~~this device including, for example, and further comprising:~~

a back support piece (10) shaped ~~so that it conforms~~ to conform to the lower back part of the leg, and

a front support piece (11) shaped ~~so that it conforms~~ to conform to the front part of the leg, these two parts being joined on one hand by a supple tie (12) and ~~on the other hand,~~ by a detachable connecting system (13A-13B) for opening and closing ~~this~~ said collar.

9. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the effort-transmitting arms (4) are in the form of a single piece and are attached one to the other at their upper part and in the back, by a part constituting the rear support piece (10) of the leg-fastening device (5).

10. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 9, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the mobile propulsion assembly formed by the bootee (1) and the blade (2) ~~consists is comprised~~ of a traditional swimming flipper ~~and that, and wherein~~ the assembly including having the leg-fastening device (5), the effort-transmitting arms (4) and the side posts (7) is attached to the bootee-blade assembly (1-2) ~~by means of~~ by a sole plate (7d) connecting said side posts (7) and which is fastened under said bootee-blade assembly.

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11. (Currently amended) Swimming and diving flipper according to ~~any of the claims 1, 8 or 9, characterized by the fact that is made of~~ Claim 1, being comprised of a single piece, ~~the~~ a rear support piece ~~(10)~~ being arranged so as to form a limit stop against which the lower back part of the user's leg comes to rest, so that the leg, at the end of the active phase of finning can form with the instep only an angle of limited size, that is smaller than the size of the maximum anatomical angle.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The ~~invention relates to~~ swimming and diving flippers for distribution of force ~~of a type comprising:~~ includes a boot (1); for housing the foot of a user and extending forwards with a fin (2) to give a mobile propulsion unit, ~~said both~~ being embodied such as to allow a movement of the upper part of the foot or the instep (P) with relation to the leg (J), when positioned on the foot of the user, such that the instep can form an angle (a) of variable magnitude with relation to the latter on carrying out the action of finning ~~and further comprising.~~ The invention further includes a leg fixing device (5), ~~embodied such as to be able~~ to be fitted around the lower part of the leg and below the calf of the user and connected to the mobile propulsion unit (2-1), by ~~means of~~ lateral force transmission arms (4) and joints (6). The lower ends (4a) of said arms and said ~~mobile propulsion unit (2-1)~~ are embodied in a complementary manner to provide stop systems (7c, 9, 4c) providing a limitation of the size of said the angle during the active phase of the movement of finning, characterised in that the lower ends (4a) of the force transmission arms (4) are fixed to the mobile propulsion unit (1-2; 1-2-7), at points corresponding to the positions of the malleolus when the fin is placed on the foot of a user.